



Fr. John P. Washington Assembly 2184

# NEWSLETTER

Religiously Devoted, Patriotically Proud

## FY 2017-18 Officers

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### Faithful Purser

SK Donald J. Progar

### Faithful Scribe

SK Vincent D. Elia, PGK

### Faithful Admiral

SK Stephen V. Benson, PGK, PFN

### Faithful Inner Sentinel

SK William G. O'Dell

### Faithful Outer Sentinel

SK Lloyd P. Knepp, PGK

### Faithful Trustees

SK Robert Garcia, FDD, PGK, PFN  
One Year Trustee  
SK William J. Garber, Jr., PGK, PFN  
Two Year Trustee  
SK Larry L. Espiritu, PGK, PFN  
Three Year Trustee



## New Uniform, Oh My!

Mark Twain is credited with saying, "I'm in favor of progress; it's change I don't like." I have been considering the issue of the new Fourth Degree uniforms since the announcement was made. One of the many things that I thought of was the resistance that human beings have to change. We all deal with changes every day to varying degrees. I freely admit that some changes are easier than others. Some of us even seek out change, as hard as that is to believe. I decided to get back into my management frame of mind and do some research to refresh my understanding of change and change management.

There are dozens if not hundreds of "experts" on change and change management. Interestingly enough, the majority of them agree on certain fundamentals regarding change and human nature. Whether the expert lists five or twelve reasons why people resist change, there are certain common elements:

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## Purpose of the Color Corps

When knighthood was in flower, knights carried the sword to defend their God, their Church, their country and their fellow man according to the code of chivalry. Today, Sir Knights wear regalia and carry the sword to honor Christ and His apostles, especially on religious and civic occasions specified in the Color Corps Drill Manual. Hence, the primary purpose of the Fourth Degree is to encourage active Catholic citizenship and foster the spirit of patriotism in members and the community at large.

The public appearance of Fourth Degree Knights as a Color Corps at religious and civic functions is an important activity of each assembly. Their colorful capes and chapeaux add dignity and the pride of Church and country to any event. By these public demonstrations their loyalties bring credit to themselves and to the Knights of Columbus.

### Color Corps Commander

SK Terry M. Fairman  
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 757-344-2768

### *(New Uniform! from page 1)*

- Mistrust and misunderstanding about the need for change or the reason for change. Resistance to change will usually happen when people do not understand the need for change, especially from those who strongly believe that the current way (regalia) works well and has for many years.

- Fear of the unknown/surprise. Decisions imposed on people suddenly, with no time to get used to the idea or prepare for the consequences, are generally resisted. It's always easier to say No than to say Yes.

- Connected to the old way. It's not just that people fear change, It's also that they genuinely believe (often on an unconscious level) that when you've been doing something a particular way for some time, it must be a good way to do things. And the longer you've been doing it that way, the better it is. So change isn't simply about embracing something unknown — it's about giving up something old (and therefore good) for something new (and therefore not good). A November 2010 study showed that people have a very reliable and tangible preference for things that have been around longer. Unconsciously we all believe that longevity = goodness.

- Not being consulted. Many of us have heard that Supreme conducted studies and surveyed members regarding the change to the new uniform. The problem is, none of us seems to know anyone who was involved in any such research. When people feel uninvolved in change they tend to have greater resistance.

- Change in the status quo. Sometimes this can be called the "comfort zone." In order to make any change we must move from where we are comfortable to an area where we are not comfortable.

- Benefits and rewards. Is there value in the change, to me, personally? Let's face it, when we don't see "what's in it for me?" we are less willing to consider changes. When I was a consultant and wanted to get people to consider changes, I sometimes used the phrase "Is the juice worth the squeeze?" When we don't see the value in making a change, we are less like to move forward with that change.

### *(Continued on page 3)*

*(New Uniform! from page 2)*

Some, or all, of the above elements, plus other elements not mentioned come into play regarding the new Fourth Degree uniform. Bottom line is, social regalia ended on 1 September 2017 and service regalia ends on 30 June 2018. There is nothing that any of us can do to change that.

You know, this change is not all bad. Think about what can be positive elements. Tuxedos are no longer a requirement for candidates for the Exemplification nor for members to be installed as an officer. Social regalia is replaced by a dark black, blue or gray suit with a white shirt, black shoes and a conservative tie (or a KofC tie). No on-going tuxedo requirement means lower laundry bills getting that formal shirt laundered. No cummerbunds. No social baldric. Looking at service regalia, after 30 June 2018, no more lugging chapeaux boxes and cape bags. Of course not everything about the new uniform is as we would like it. The cost, the “lower degree of formality,” the beret, the change.

The new uniform is only a requirement for those who wish to be a part of the color corps, which means it is optional. But consider this, aside from parades, there are several functions of the color corps that many, of not most, of us would consider to be highly desirable, if not essential. The chalice ceremony, honor guards at wakes and funerals, presenting the colors at installations and other events, honor guards for priests and bishops. I am sure that you can think of other events that I have failed to list. Do you want an honor guard at your wake and funeral? Do you want a chalice ceremony? Do you want to retain the visibility of the assembly and the order at parades, installations and as honor guards for priests and bishops? I urge each current member of the color corps as well as those who are not yet members of the color corps

to prayerfully consider whether you can ultimately see the value of these activities and, if you do, to prayerfully consider the purchase of the new uniform. Remember that it is discounted to \$382.50 until 30 September 2017.

Did the Supreme Council manage the change to the new uniform as well as they could/should have? Many of us would agree that, no, they did not. The issue for us is whether or not we will adapt to this change and move forward in service to the order and in service to each other.



Knights of Columbus  
**F O U R T H**  
**D E G R E E**  
*Patriotic degree of the Order.*



## Council Affiliations

Fr. James Lee Rizer #6828  
Williamsburg, VA  
GK Barry Holland

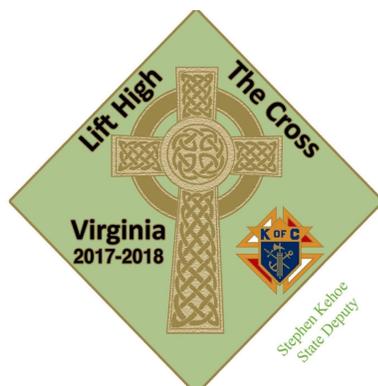
Yorktown #7469  
Yorktown, VA  
GK Terry Fairman

Fr. Jakubowski #8116  
West Point, VA  
GK Salvatore Inga

Fr. Edmond P. McCarthy #9428  
Gloucester, VA  
GK Louis Valcourt, PGK, PFN

William & Mary College #11501  
Williamsburg, VA  
GK Patrick Walker

St. Olaf #12589  
Norge, VA  
GK Mike Price



## Commander's Reflections On The New Uniform

SK Terry Fairman, Color Corps



There has been much discussion regarding the new uniform for the Color Corps. Many of the responses to our survey by individual members are typical and expected. I agree there are a lot of things about the design of the new uniform that we can easily dislike, and a lot about the manner in which the new uniform was implemented, without rank and file input, that we can also dislike. Nevertheless, Supreme has made their decision, and this new uniform is a done deal. No amount of complaining is going to cause Supreme to reconsider any design changes, or go back on its implementation.

Part of my decision to join Knights of Columbus and become a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Knight and participate with our Color Corps was because of the current regalia. The men you would see from time to time wearing the social regalia with the red, white, and blue baldric under a black tuxedo coat just looked very sharp to me. Of course the service regalia with the colorful capes and chapeaus set these men apart even more. You just knew they were gentlemen who had answered a higher calling, and I wanted to be a part of that. Only later did I realize how lucky I was to have joined the Yorktown Council and the Fr. Washington Assembly, two first class organizations with top notch members actively involved in their parish and communities. Time will tell if the new uniform will have the same effectiveness in drawing new members to our Order.

When I joined the Knights and the Color Corps, I never considered that within my first two years, I'd be asked to serve as your Color Corps Commander. I did not jump at the opportunity at first, because I knew that no matter how positively the job was being sold, there was going to be a lot more time and effort needed to put into the job to make it all work than anyone

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*(Commander's Reflections continued from page 4)*

was telling me. I was not certain I was the right person for the job, as there were so many other more senior members who should have been offered the opportunity. When it became clear no other eligible member was going to come forward and take the position, I agreed to give it a try. I did not want to see the Fr. Washington Color Corps fold so soon after my joining just for lack of a leader.

Although it turned out to be even more work than I anticipated, I am thankful I did not have to take the job due to the death of a predecessor. I can't imagine taking on the responsibilities of Commander without someone being there to show you the ropes. I was doubly fortunate to have not one, but two of the very best mentors one could ask for in Sir Knights Frank Nowak and Frank Komornik, each having served as my immediate predecessors. I would have been lost without their continued encouragement and direction. I was not sure how the members would respond to a new commander, after serving so long a time with these two Sir Knights, but was extremely pleased by the way all members supported me, and supported our events through their participation.

Participation with the Color Corps is the most visible way a 4<sup>th</sup> Degree Sir Knight can exemplify the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree principle of patriotism. It's not about the colors we wear in our uniform, but rather the colors in the flags we carry at parades, and post at various ceremonies, and what they represent. It is not about what you wear, but rather about who you are, a distinguished Sir Knight in the Order of the Knights of Columbus. Your service with the Color Corps marks you as someone willing to stand out from the crowd, and support the patriotic ideals of this nation, including the liberty and freedom we all enjoy thanks to the brave Americans who answered the call to serve in the military and who fought for those principles, many giving their lives for that very cause. This is what I think about every time we carry the colors.

Many of us have experienced the rewards of being a Color Corps member. It comes when a grieving widow comes up to

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## Event Calendar

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### September 5, 2017

Fr. Capodanno Mass  
Basilica of the Immaculate  
Conception

### September 11, 2017

National Day of Prayer for Peace

### September 20, 2017, 7:30 PM

Assembly Business Meeting

### September 28, 2017

VA Birthday Party

### September 30, 2017

State Quarterly Meeting

### October 1, 2017

BINGO

### October 18, 2017, 7:30 PM

Assembly Business Meeting

### October 20, 2017, 6:00 PM

PFN/Candidate Dinner

### October 26, 2017

VA Birthday Party

### November 11, 2017

Exemplification of the Fourth  
Degree

### November 15, 2017, 7:30 PM

Assembly Business Meeting

*(Commander's Reflections continued from page 6)*

you at a wake or chalice ceremony to personally thank you for doing what you do. Choosing to serve and honor the memorial preferences of a fallen brother rather than staying home is the reward. For all those who are unsure if you will purchase the new uniform and continue in the Color Corps, I would have you ask yourselves, who will be there to honor your memorial preferences? We need brothers who will answer the call in spite of what we are asked to wear.

From my personal discussions with members, and the results of our survey, I can conclude that it would seem we will have at least a handful of members who will commit to purchasing the new uniform, if they all follow through. This should give us a core group to work with, and with the full support of every Assembly member assisting us with recruiting new Color Corps members, I believe we will survive. Do not forget that now is the time to make this purchase as the 25% discount goes away after 30 September.

So, after much consideration, I have decided to go ahead and purchase the new uniform myself, and continue as your Commander, so long as each new FN desires to keep me in that posting. I still find nothing I really like about the new uniform, but find I am more unwilling to allow the Fr. Washington Color Corps to die out just because of what they are asking us to wear. The good works we

perform and the service we provide to our communities should transcend anything we wear. Is boycotting the new uniform really helping to support the good of the Order? I have concluded it is not. Purchasing this new uniform remains a personal decision for every member, and as Commander I will not hold a decision by any member to drop out of the Color Corp against them, and would ask all members to so honor every other member's decision. My thanks goes out to all members, past, present, and future, for your dedication to the Color Corps.

**From Our Spiritual Advisor**

SK Deacon Sandy Mattson  
FDD, PGK, PFN



Last month I went on a retreat in Richmond. Just prior to arriving I passed by a River. I could clearly see the water flowing over the rocks. The river was clear, clean, fresh and welcoming to those who wanted to fish, exercise in a canoe, or take in its beauty. Upon arriving at the retreat center there was a creek along the walking trail. This creek was stagnant, dirty, smelled and was very unpleasant to the eye. This creek once fed off of the river but over the years became obstructed from the main source. Blockage, erosion, obstacles, prevented the flow of fresh water. When our lives are not connected to the main source, (Christ), then we too become stagnant and not fully alive. Let our lives be a reflection of that living water that gives strength to one another.

**Prayer Requests**

- Linda O'Dell
- SK Deacon Sandy Mattson
- SK James Kendall
- SK Eddie Monfalcone
- SK Bob Hinger
- SK Tom Barr
- Lorraine Elia
- SK Al Jury

# PFN/Candidate Recognition Dinner



**Honoree: Stephen V. Benson, PGK, PFN**

## Menu

Antipasto Table  
Salad & Bread

## Entrees:

Chicken Cacciatore, Chicken Marsala  
Penne With Onions, Peppers and Sausage  
Pasta with Meat Sauce  
Fettuccine  
Florentine Vegetables  
Sauces

## Dessert:

Tiramisu

## Beverages

Coffee, Iced Tea, Water  
Beer and Wine (Contributions)

**When:** Friday, October 20, 2017

**Where:** St John Paul II Center  
St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church  
Yorktown, VA

**Time:** 6:30 PM Hors d'oeuvres & Drinks  
7:00 PM Dinner  
8:00 PM Presentations

**Other:** \$30.00 per person  
Reservation and payment  
NLT October 13, 2017 to:

SK Tom Carroll  
111 Pond View, Yorktown, VA 23692  
757-969-1555

## Exemplification of the Fourth Degree - November 11, 2017



Saturday, November 11, 2017

Renaissance Portsmouth-Norfolk Waterfront Hotel, 425 Water Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704

- Candidates must be a Third Degree Knight in good standing.
- The candidate fee is \$70.00 which is set by Supreme. The fee includes the candidate's banquet ticket, Fourth Degree pin, certificate and all processing fees.
- NO TUXEDO IS REQUIRED. Candidates may wear a dark blue, black or gray suit with a plain white shirt and a basic, conservative necktie. Brown, green or other color suits are not permitted.
- Active duty military may wear their Class A or dress uniform.
- Policemen and Firemen may wear their dress uniform.

- Observers may wear the same as the candidates. NO TUXEDO IS REQUIRED.
- Candidates will require their current Third Degree membership card.
- Observers will require their current Third and Fourth Degree membership cards.
- The banquet cost is \$65.00 for anyone wishing to attend.
- There will be an Exemplification Memorial Mass on Saturday prior to the banquet.
- Candidates are required to be in the antechamber no later than 11:15 AM on Saturday.
- Escorts are always needed. If you are able to attend the Exemplification as an escort for the candidates, please notify the Faithful Navigator, Jimmy Trentham.

### *Religiously Devoted, Patriotically Proud*

For most men who follow Jesus, there comes a time when duty extends beyond our own lives, beyond how we lead our families, and into how we serve our fellow man. That's what the Knights of Columbus is all about. The Patriotic Degree allows K of C members to take this one step further. "Sir Knight" is more than a title – it's an honor.

